be specified in the notification. Enhancement in the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral cannot be made more than once during any period of three years.

(b) The last revision of rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing was notified on 17.2.92 in respect of all States except West Bengal and Assam. In respect of West Bengal and Assam, the last revision of rates on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing was notified on 5.5.87.

(c) and (d) The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 does not prescribe any time schedule for revision of royalty rates.

Eruption of Volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

5716. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the eruption of Volcano on the Barren Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details of the assessment made by the scientist on the impact of Volcano activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) Scientific team reached Barren Island on 24th January, 1995 and undertook an aerial survey on 31st January, 1995. The Volcanic activity at Barren Island is of basaltic, and esitic nature and indicates active conditions of strombolian type. The present activity is of "Island arc" type and indicates an active volcanotectonic regime.

No loss of life and material, except vegetation in the path of the lava front, has been reported. The nearest inhabitated island is about 70 Km. away from the Barren Island. The eruption is, at the moment, of low magnitude and its effect is local.

गुजरात में इस्पात परियोजनाएं

5717. **श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार को गुजरात सरकार द्वारा इस्पात परियोजनाएं स्थापित किए जाने के लिए गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्रों को आशय-पत्र जारी करने के संबंध में कोई प्रताव प्राप्त हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस पर कोई उचित कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) गुजरात सरकार ने किन-किन गैर-सरकारी कम्पनियों की अनुशंसा की है?

इसपात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव): (क) से (घ) उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार इस्पात संयंत्रों की स्थापना के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को आशय-पत्र जारी करने हेतु गुजरात सरकार से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। औद्योगिक लाईसेंस के लिए संघ सरकार की मंजूरी केवल तभी आवश्यक होती है जब प्रस्तावित परियोजना 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार 10 लाख से अधिक की जनसंख्या वाले शहर की मानक नगरीय क्षेत्र की परिसीमाओं की परिरेखा से 25 कि०मी० के भीतर अवस्थित होनी हो।

Letters Written by M.Ps.

5718. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to his Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and